

ST ANTHONY'S Newsletter



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Celebrating 125 Years

Year 6 Retreat Day

Today our Year 6 cohort participated in a Faith Formation Retreat, led by Fr. Olek and Mrs de Nys. The students were given the opportunity to explore their faith journey and deepen their relationship with God, while they participated in fun team bonding activities. A big thank you to Fr. Olek and Mrs de Nys for organising such a fun day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEK 4

Monday 19 February

Year 5 Camp – Robe

Tuesday 20 February

Year 5 Camp – Robe

6pm School Board Meeting

Wednesday 21 February

Year 5 Camp – Robe

Year 6 Mass & Faith Formation

Retreat Day

Thursday 22 February

8:45am St Anthony's Playgroup

2:30pm Assembly hosted by 3/4LB & 3/4SB

Friday 23 February

8:45am Occasional Care

Saturday 24 February

4:30pm Mass St. Alphonsus

WEEK 5

Monday 26 February

Pascal Candle Competition Starts

Wednesday 28 February

9:15am Yr 3/4 combined Parish Mass

1:45pm Receptions visit to Millicent

North Kindy

Thursday 29 February

8:45am St Anthony's Playgroup

Friday 1 March

8:45am Occasional Care

P&F AGM

Sunday 3 March

9am Mass St Alphonsus



From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

We hope all children and families have enjoyed a rewarding start to the year and are enjoying their new friendships and learning challenges and having some fun along the way. We are immensely proud of all children for their wonderful engagement and very settled start to the year.

Lent 2024

Last Wednesday 14 February, the St Anthony's community celebrated Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent with a Mass at St Alphonsus. The 40 days of Lent is characterised by prayer, alms and fasting, where we prepare ourselves to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. Pope Francis tells us that forty days of Lent is a very special time in the Liturgical Calendar, in which we can 'joyfully embrace a conversion of heart and a turning point that can foster change in each of us.' We all need to improve, for the better. Lent helps us do this.

Thank you to Father Olek for celebrating the Mass and for all who joined us at the Ash Wednesday Mass, this was a beautiful celebration for the School and Parish community.

Jesus lived and preached compassion, love, gentleness, healing, peace, and joy. Modelling the life of Jesus during the season of Lent allows us to demonstrate faith, love and generosity for others who are less fortunate than us. Lent is a time of giving and as a school community during Lent, one of our priorities is to give to those less fortunate than ourselves. One approach we do this is through Project Compassion. Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-fund raising appeal which brings thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. During 2024 the theme for Project Compassion is 'For all Future Generations.' This theme challenges us to venture into a new experience of compassion and invites us to step up and step out for those who do not have the essential resources they need for their survival. Those whose needs currently are far beyond ours.

This year we invite families to support Project Compassion by donating via the Project Compassion boxes. Your commitment to marginalised people has been a direct response to the Christian call to 'act justly, love mercifully, and walk humbly with our God.'

2024 Mid-Year Enrolments

It is now the time for 2024 mid-year enrolments. If you have a child who is to begin Reception in Term 3 2024, please complete an enrolment form and return to Admin. If you know of any families who are thinking about enrolling their child at St Anthony's Primary School for term 3 2024, please let them know about our mid-year enrolment intake or alternatively, they can contact the school on 87 333479 at any time. We welcome all new families!

2024 School Board Annual General Meeting

On Tuesday 19 March our Annual General Meeting for the St Anthony's School Board will be held in the St Francis Centre. A nomination form will be forwarded to families via School Stream, hard copies can be collected from the front office. If you have any questions about being part of the School Board, please do not hesitate to pop in and see me or give me a call.

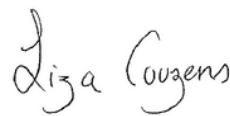
Numeracy at St Anthony's

During 2024 St Anthony's Maths Priority focuses on implementing tasks focused on reasoning, justification and proving their thinking. In Week 0 the teaching staff engaged in professional learning, exploring research and 'best practice' in terms of teaching Maths. Staff investigated the importance of setting meaningful Learning Intentions and building Success Criteria for lessons alongside of, and with, their students. This work will be followed up with a series of small group professional development sessions, where staff have collaborated to build a shared understanding of effective numeracy strategies and evidence-based resources to support targeted instruction and strategies to implement purposeful numeracy learning. St Anthony's staff will also work with Catholic Education consultants, aiming to foster a great love of Maths in every child!

The Seeds of Student Leadership

This week our Year 6 students have been exploring student leadership and what does a servant student leadership model look like in the school context. This has been a two-day program encompassing leadership approaches, skills, a focus on strategies for making a difference in the lives of others and the development of an action plan for the children's leadership initiatives for 2024. To support the Year 6 students in their leadership formation, they also participated in a Faith Formation Retreat, led by Fr Olek and Ms de Nys, exploring elements of leadership development through the Gospels.

God Bless,



Liza Couzens
Principal



PROJECT COMPASSION

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow for all future generations.

Meet Ronita from the Philippines. Ronita lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children.

Meet Leaia from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

Meet Memory from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village.

Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations.

Scan the QR code below to learn more:



The Sacramental Program 2024

A group of eight children are taking part in the sacramental program this year. We held our first session last Tuesday, and seeing families and children joining this special process was wonderful. We are excited to continue supporting families throughout this program in the upcoming terms and we thank Father Peter and Father Olek for their work preparing and running these sessions for our children.

The children, with the support of their parents/guardians, are preparing for the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Some families have also brought their children forward for baptism, and Father Peter and Father Olek are working with families to support and arrange this special sacrament, too. Over the following three terms, children will engage in 5 more after-school preparation sessions to prepare for the celebrations.

Please take note of the following dates for the sacraments:

- **Reconciliation** - Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 3:30pm
- **Confirmation** - Tuesday 18 June 2024 at 7pm
- **First Holy Communion** Sunday 15 September 2024 at 9am

If you would like to discuss any component of the sacramental program, please get in touch with Sharn de Nys.

Children Preparing for their Sacraments of full initiation into the Catholic Church

- Remi Hughes
- William Grech
- Bluey Zhe Yang
- Cedar Ferguson
- Ziggy Galambos
- Caleb Seidel
- Eddie Haggett
- Lottie Matthews

Please pray for these children as they prepare for their special celebrations.

Upcoming dates for Family Mass and Liturgy of the Word for Children

Family Mass

- Sunday 17 March 9am
- Sunday 5 May 9am
- Saturday 8 June 4:30 pm

LOWC

- Saturday 9 March 4:30pm
- Saturday 25 May 4:30pm
- Sunday 16 June 9am

What is Liturgy of the Word for Children?

Liturgy of the Word for Children is similar to Sunday School and occurs during nominated weekend Masses at Millicent Parish. Children are invited to come forward and are escorted to the parish hall by one teacher and an additional adult. During this time, the children listen to the day's Gospel reading, engage in a dialogue about the reading, and participate in a short craft activity.

After this, the children are brought back to Mass for the offertory procession and then return to their families to complete the rest of Mass. This session generally takes 20 minutes and aims to provide a child-friendly way for children to understand the day's readings. Everyone is welcome to attend, and you don't have to be a practising Catholic to bring your children along. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Sharn de Nys. We welcome all new comers.



Mercy Key Awards

As we find ourselves midway through the fourth week back at school, it's common for children to be feeling tired and possibly anxious amidst this new academic year. Transitioning back into routines after breaks can be tough, and can take a little time getting back into the swing of things. Here are some helpful tips for parents/caregivers and children during this period:

Open Communication: Encourage your child to share their feelings openly, reassuring them that it's normal to feel anxious or tired during this adjustment period.

Establish a Routine: Set up a consistent daily routine with enough sleep, healthy meals, family time, and bedtime stories. Predictability can ease anxiety and help to manage academic and extracurricular activities effectively.

Encourage Self-Care: Teach self-care strategies like deep breathing, mindfulness, and engaging in hobbies for stress relief and relaxation.
Check-In with Teachers: Stay connected with teachers to monitor progress and address concerns early, fostering a supportive environment both at home and in school.

Celebrate Achievements: Recognise and celebrate even small accomplishments to boost confidence and motivation.

Be Patient and Supportive: Understand that adjustment takes time, offering unconditional support as they navigate this transition.

Implementing these strategies can help children overcome fatigue and anxiety, ensuring a smoother return to school and fostering a positive learning experience.

Bec Baker
School Counsellor

School News

Birthday Greetings

Birthday greetings to the following people who celebrate a birthday between 8th February to 21st February



Ella Loveday
Huey Suclan
Shanaya Thapa
Rhys Damhuis

Sonny Wiese
Dulcie Ellis
Joel Skeer
Edward Ellery

Isabelle Ellery
Hamish Damhuis
Kylan Robbins

Road Crossing Monitors

Week 4: Matilda Stephan & Max Wells
Week 5: Eloise Phillips & Kaia Green

SAPSASA Athletics

Students (turning 8 years of age or older) and interested in trying out for SAPSASA Athletics should have brought home a nomination form. Please message your class teacher if you have any questions or require another note. Forms need to be returned by Friday 23rd February.



Integrity

Harriet Partington
Mia Croser

Compassion

Charlie Telfer
Reah Flemming
Macy de Donatis
George Bowering

Hospitality

Sidney Mules
Bella Reilly
Lacey Randal
Orlando Newton

Mutual Respect:

Ruby Reilly

Responsibility

Max Gurney
Isla Walker
Sonny Coghlan
Haddi Lawlor
Samson Stephan
Hunter Hughes
Kirra Madden
Jacob Peters

Important Reminders

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To assist families with planning for the year, please note the 2024 Staff Formation Days are as follows:

- Monday 12 February (Term 1 Week 3)
- Tuesday 12 March (Term1, Week 7)
- Thursday 6 June (Term 2, Week 6)
- Friday 7 June (Term 2, Week 6)
- Friday 6 September (Term 3, Week 7) – Staff Reflection Day
- Friday 18 October (Term 4, Week 1)
- Friday 13 December (Term 4, Week 9)

Safety Around the School

At the beginning of a new school year, we must remind ourselves about being safe as we drive around the school.

Please drive safely, and we ask families to observe the following requirements and requests:

Drop Zone: Entry to the school drop zone is via a left-hand turn from Salts Street or Emily Street only. To prevent traffic congestion and to ensure traffic flows smoothly, no right-hand turn to enter the Drop Zone from Salts Street is permitted.

School Crossing: A reminder that when the school lights are flashing, all cars should travel at 25km. At all other times, the speed in front of the school is 50km. Your support in this is greatly appreciated.